



One Watershed
One Plan

Lake Superior North

Pilot Watershed Profile

Fall 2015

Planning Partners

Counties:

- Cook
- Lake

Soil and Water Conservation Districts:

- Cook
- Lake

Watershed Districts:

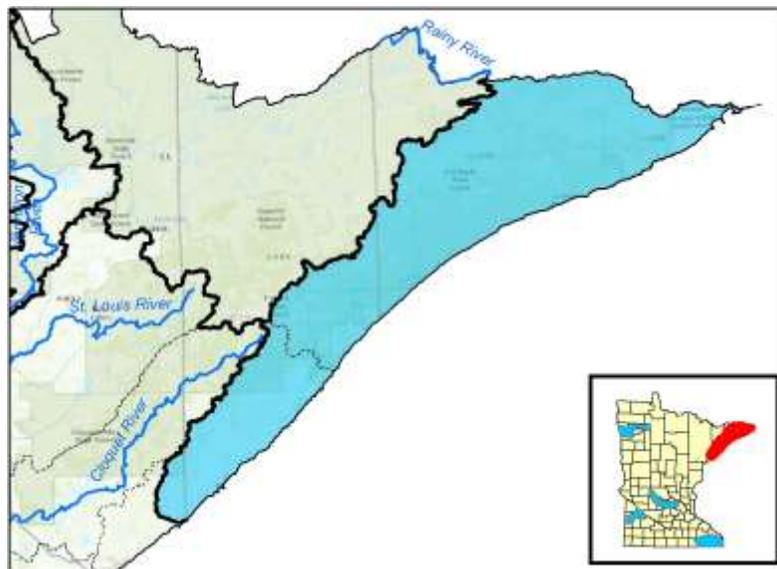
- None

What is *One Watershed, One Plan*?

The vision of *One Watershed, One Plan* is to align planning on major watershed boundaries with prioritized, targeted, and measurable watershed plans developed and implemented locally. These plans build on existing efforts, including current local water plans, state and local knowledge, and a systematic, science-based approach to watershed management.

The Lake Superior North Pilot Watershed

The *One Watershed, One Plan* boundary for Lake Superior North was drafted along the area's major watershed boundary. The resulting three-county watershed planning area includes portions of Cook and Lake counties, and a small portion of St. Louis county.



In early 2014, planning partners in this watershed joined together to submit a nomination to pilot *One Watershed, One Plan*. In June, Lake Superior North was selected as one of five major watersheds across the state to pilot this program.

The pilot program has involved a broad range of stakeholders, including local

governments, state agencies, and community members as partners in the planning process. "Our area has been working well together from the start, communicating and collaborating," said Ilena Berg, Cook County SWCD Water Plan Coordinator. "Communication has to be the key. Right from the start, our pilot tried hard to communicate well."

The plan will address the largest threats and provide the greatest environmental benefits to the Lake Superior North Watershed.



Next Steps for Lake Superior North's *One Watershed, One Plan*

- Review the draft plan and seek approval of the plan by the plan policy committee.
- Continue to explore sources of funding for the implementation phase of the plan.
- Complete the plan by 2016, and implement it throughout the 10-year timeframe of the plan.
- Provide BWSR with lessons, feedback, and experience gained from the pilot plan to help adjust and streamline the framework for statewide rollout of the program.

Tips from Lake Superior North

- **“Believe in the process. You have put a ton of work into the process, and that will yield positive results. There is no one right way to do this. Have a ‘let’s do it’ attitude. Buy into the idea that one person in the office doesn’t have the revelation that trumps, but rather it is the plan producing the action items.”**

--Dan Schutte, Lake County SWCD Manager

- **“Stay engaged. Keep the conversation going. Talk to facilitators, and make sure that the advisory group is still meeting, and that the policy group is staying on the timeframe.”**

--Rich Sve, Lake County Commissioner

- **“Work hard, take it easy, and work together. Do your best.”**

--Don Goodell, Cook SWCD Board Chair

- **“Inclusivity is hugely important. Getting the right people to inform the process and identify objectives helps to ensure we will be better stewards of our watershed. I strongly recommend the structure of your meetings include both the advisory and policy committees. This too is consistent with the concept of inclusivity.”**

--Garry Gamble, Cook County Commissioner

One Watershed, One Plan Background

One Watershed, One Plan is rooted in Minnesota’s long history of water management by local government. Planning for the program began with the Local Government Water Roundtable (Association of Minnesota Counties, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, and Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts). Roundtable members recommended that local governments charged with water management should develop focused implementation plans on a watershed scale. In 2012, the Minnesota State Legislature, through the *One Watershed, One Plan* legislation, authorized BWSR to develop and implement a comprehensive watershed management plan approach. The resulting approach coordinates and consolidates water plans on a watershed basis instead of political boundaries.

How Do I Stay Informed?

For up-to-date information on the statewide rollout of *One Watershed, One Plan*, please visit the BWSR program website, available at www.bwsr.state.mn.us/planning/1W1P/index.html. For information on the Lake Superior North pilot watershed, please contact your local County, Soil and Water Conservation District, or Watershed District office.